

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-20 H-03 L-03 IGA-02 AGR-20

CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01

OMB-01 SWF-02 NSC-07 DRC-01 SAM-01 /185 W

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R 251435Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5878

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1535

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR EMIN EG

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN REQUEST FOR HELP IN PURCHASING FERTILIZER

REF: STATE 57733

1. WHEN MEETING WITH FAHMY ON MARCH 23, I GAVE HIM SUBSTANCE OF REFTEL. IN DOING SO, I STRESSED ACUTE SHORTAGE OF FERTILIZERS ON GLOBAL BASIS AND NEED FOR EGYPTIAN PURCHASING AGENTS TO BUY WHEN AVAILABLE. I ASSURED HIM WE UNDERSTAND EGYPT'S NEED FOR FERTILIZER AND HAVE MADE THIS KNOWN TO US COMPANIES. WE WILL CONTINUE USE OUR GOOD OFFICES TO ASSIST IN OBTAINING ADDITIONAL FERTILIZER SUPPLIES FOR THE GOE, PARTICULARLY FROM ITS TRADITIONAL SUPPLY SOURCES IN EUROPE AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

2. FAHMY TOOK CAREFUL NOTE OF WHAT I HAD TOLD HIM, INCLUDING EGYPTIAN PURCHASES TO DATE. HE DID NOT SEEM TO KNOW ABOUT THEM. HIS INITIAL COMMENT WAS THAT HE UNDERSTOOD US COMPANIES ARE PREEMPTING EGYPT'S NORMAL EUROPEAN AND MIDDLE EAST FERTILIZER SOURCES. (IT TURNED OUT HE HAD GOTTEN THIS FROM HIS BROTHER, WHO IS IN THE

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FERTILIZER BUSINESS.) HE THEN TELEPHONED DEPUTY PRIMIN

HEGAZY IN MY PRESENCE AND GAVE HIM SUBSTANCE OF OUR MESSAGE.

3. HEGAZY INDICATED AWARENESS OF EGYPT'S PURCHASES TO DATE, BUT CONTENDED THEY ARE FAR SHORT OF EGYPT'S NEEDS. EGYPT, HE TOLD FAHMY, HAS A REQUIREMENT OF 900,000 TONS OF FERTILIZER PER YEAR. IT HAS THUS FAR BEEN ABLE TO CONTRACT FOR ONLY 200,000 TONS, BUT IS CONTINUING ITS EFFORTS.

4. AT FAHMY'S LUNCH MARCH 24 FOR VISITING PERUVIAN FOREIGN MINISTER, HE, HEGAZY AND I DISCUSSED MATTER BRIEFLY. AT THAT TIME HEGAZY REFINED HIS EARLIER STATEMENT. HE CLAIMED EGYPT NORMALLY NEEDS 500,000 TONS OF FERTILIZER IN THE SUMMER AND ANOTHER 400,000 TONS IN THE WINTER. PURCHASES TO DATE, HE THOUGHT (BUT WAS NOT ENTIRELY SURE), WERE PRIMARILY TO MEET SUMMER REQUIREMENTS. EVEN THESE HAD NOT YET BEEN SATISFIED. NOR HAVE EGYPT'S REQUIREMENTS FOR FERTILIZER FOR THE WINTER MONTHS BEEN ARRANGED. USG HELP WAS ESSENTIAL.

5. SINCE THE OCCASION WAS NOT CONDUCIVE TO DETAILED DISCUSSION, HE ASKED THAT I CALL ON HIM IN NEXT FEW DAYS TO DISCUSS THIS AND OTHER ECONOMIC MATTERS AT GREATER LENGTH. I AM MAKING ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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